(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to curb the use of old vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Taxation of Motor Vehicles falls under the purview of the respective State Governments. With a view to controlling pollution, phasing out of older vehicles through a higher rate of taxation on older vehicles had been proposed by the Government of India as a part of agenda item for the 30th meeting of Transport Development Council (TDC) held on 16.1.2003. Representatives of the States agreed during the meeting to the suggestion for levying a tax on the pattern of "Green Cess" imposed by Karnataka Government which envisages levy of road tax at an enhanced rate after the period of 15 years on all categories of motor vechicles. Further action in this regard is to be taken by the States. It is not possible to predict the extent to which it is likely to curb the use of old vehicles.

Reforms in transportation infrastructure

2067. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the reforms in transportation infrastructure;

(b) what was the total amount earmarked and spent during the last three years; and

(c) by when the widening of National Highways is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) This Ministry deals with National Highways and Road Transport. The reforms in respect of these Sectors are:

(i) Development and maintenance of National Highways has been opened to the Private Sector. 46 Projects amounting to about Rs. 7305.4 Crores have been implemented by Private Sector.

(ii) A standardized code for bus body design has been evolved.

(iii) Power steering in the buses has been introduced.

(iv) Vehicle emission standards have been tightened.

(v) Standardized software for records relating to DL/RC has been made available to all States/UTs, free of cost.

(b) The total amount allocated from budgetary sources and expenditure for development and maintenance of National Highways during the last three years are as under:

Year	Allocation (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)
2000-2001	5180.65	4530.54
2001-2002	5785.59	5530.46
2002-2003	6531.12	5741.17 (provisional)

(c) Widening of National Highways is taken up depending on the traffic intensity, *inter se* priority and availability of funds. No firm date for completion can be given.

Request from Durgapur Municipal Corporation

2068. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any request from the mayor of Durgapur Municipal Corporation for construction of fly-overs at some busy and accident prone junctions of NH-02 at Durgapur; and

(b) if so, actions taken by Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A consultant has been appointed to conduct the feasibility of the proposals.